

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Before this Response, claims 1-12 and 14-20 were present for examination. Claims 1, 10, and 17 are amended herein. No claims are canceled, and no claims are added. Claims 21-28 are added. No claims are canceled. Therefore, claims 1-12 and 14-28 are now present for examination.

Claim 5 stands objected to as including informalities.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,899,980 ("Wilf") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,241 ("Stein"), U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0004783 ("Paltenghe"), U.S. Patent No. 5,758,126 ("Daniels") and U.S. Patent No. 6,102,287 ("Matyas") and Alleged Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("AAAPA").

Claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wilf, Stein, Daniels, and AAAPA.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks below.

Amendments

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to include additional recitations. These recitations are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraph 33. Claim 1 has also been amended to remove previously added recitations. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been amended to include additional recitations. These recitations are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraphs 42 and 27. Claim 10 has also

been amended to remove previously added recitations. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 17

Claim 17 has been amended to include additional recitations. These recitations are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraph 58. Claim 17 has also been amended to remove previously added recitations. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been newly added. The recitations of this claim are supported throughout the specification, including at page 12, line 6 of the parent application (U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/516,209) which is incorporated by reference in paragraph 1. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 22

Claim 22 has been newly added. The recitations of this claim are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraph 60. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 23 and 24

Claims 23 and 24 have been newly added. The recitations of these claims are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraph 63. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 25

Claim 25 has been newly added. The recitations of this claim are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraph 47. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 26, 27, and 28

Claims 26, 27, and 28 have been newly added. The recitations of these claims are supported throughout the specification, including at paragraphs 96 and 103. Consequently, Applicant submits that no new matter is added by these amendments.

Remarks

Claim 5 - Objection

Claim 5 stands objected to as including informalities. More precisely, claim 5 was objected to as including identical recitations to portions of claim 1, the claim from which claim 5 depends. Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove matching recitations therein. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 5.

Claims 1, 10, and 17

Claims 1, 10, and 17 stand rejected as being obvious over Wilf in view of Stein, Paltenghe, Daniels, Matyas, and AAAPA.

Applicant has amended each these claims to include additional varied recitations. After a review of the cited references, Applicant believes both the general nature and specific recitations of amended claims 1, 10, and 17 are not taught or suggested therein.

Consequently, Applicant believes Wilf, Stein, Paltenghe, Daniels, Matyas, and AAAPA do not teach or suggest all of the recitations of these claims, and therefore do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect thereto. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of claims 1, 10, and 17.

Claims 2-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18-20

Claims 2-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18-20 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1, 10, or 17, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable base claims. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

Claims 21-28

Claims 21-28 have been newly added. Applicant believes Wilf, Stein, Paltenghe, Daniels, Matyas, and AAAPA do not teach or suggest all of the recitations of these claims, and therefore do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect thereto. Furthermore, these claims each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1, 10, or 17, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable base claims.

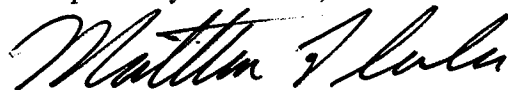
CONCLUSION

For at least all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this paper, however, should it be deemed otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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